

Doucet, Lisa

From: Johnson, Jim
Sent: Thursday, September 22, 2016 4:00 PM
To: Burke, Thomas; Kadeli, Lek; Kavlock, Robert; Robbins, Chris
Cc: Blackburn, Elizabeth; Hubbard, Carolyn; Deener, Kathleen; Corona, Elizabeth; Gwinn, Maureen; Plotkin, Viktoriya; Piantanida, David; Widener, Kelly
Subject: RE: NCER Weekly Update: Week of Sept. 19, 2016

Tom, Lek, and Bob,

This is an update to the NCER weekly summary that was sent out earlier. Today, we released the Oil and Gas Development in the Appalachian Basin RFA and below is a short summary of the RFA. This RFA was **congressionally mandated** with the purpose to fund research understanding the implications of oil and gas development. Specifically, there was language in the FY16 joint Senate and House budget report directing EPA to “facilitate extramural research for oil and gas development in the Appalachian Basin.”

- **Oil and Gas Development in the Appalachian Basin RFA:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announces the release of the [Oil and Gas Development in the Appalachian Basin Request for Applications](#). There has been a rapid increase in oil and gas development (OGD) in the United States during the past decade, aided by technological advances in high-volume hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling methods and equipment. This has enabled the economic production of oil and gas from unconventional resources (shales, tight formations, and others). The Marcellus Shale and Utica Shale in the Appalachian Basin are two important shale formations, and the Appalachian Basin has become a center of the “shale gas boom” with unconventional wells spread throughout the region. At the same time, concerns have been raised about the potential risks to human health and the environment from chemical and other stressors associated with oil and gas development. The overall purpose of this RFA is to promote research that fills in gaps in the understanding of the potential impacts of OGD on human health and the environment. EPA is seeking applications for multidisciplinary research that fosters a better understanding of how the rapid increase of OGD activities in the Appalachian Basin is impacting the surrounding environment and public health. Specifically, research projects are sought that can quantify water quality impacts associated with OGD activities and inform related human and ecological exposures. The goal of this research is to develop and compile scientific information that aids the public and private sectors in implementing environmental policies and best practices that develop oil and gas resources while protecting public health and the environment in the Appalachian Basin.

Jim

James H. Johnson, Jr., Ph.D.
Director
National Center for Environmental Research
Office of Research and Development
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Rm. RRB M300, MC 8725R
Washington, DC 20460
202-564-5378
johnson.jim@epa.gov